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Attorney Docket No. SEL 163

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| In Re Application of:                | ) | "Express Mail" Mailing Label No. <u>EL411703173</u> |
| Satoshi MURAKAMI et al               | ) | Date of Deposit <u>March 1, 2000</u>                |
| Serial No.: Not Assigned             | ) | I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being    |
| Filed: Herewith                      | ) | deposited with the United States Postal Service     |
| Examiner:                            | ) | "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service     |
| Art Unit:                            | ) | under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above       |
| For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD | ) | and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner      |
| OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME            | ) | for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231                 |
|                                      | ) | Name <u>Cristine M. Noll</u>                        |
|                                      | ) | (typed or printed)                                  |
|                                      | ) | Signature <u>Cristine m. noll</u>                   |

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. Copies of the references are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

The family of JP 7-130652 cited herein includes:

U.S. Patent No. 5,643,826  
U.S. Patent No. 5,923,962

The family of JP 10-247735 cited herein includes:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/034,041 (pending)

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not


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possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

A first office action, notice of allowance or issue fee notification has not been received in this case, so Applicant does not believe that a fee is due. However, if any such fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark J. Murphy  
Registration No.: 34,225

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